

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9139

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: RESUMPTION OF CYPRUS TALKS

REFS: (A) ATHENS 9075 (B) USUN 3483 (NOTAL)

1. IN MY PRIVATE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON WITH FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS AND DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF (SEPTELS
--NOTAL), I ASKED IF THERE HAD BEEN ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS
LOOKING TOWARDS CYPRUS TALKS AS A RESULT OF ARCHBISHOP
MAKARIOS' MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS HERE
LAST WEEK (REF A). BITSIOS SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE
OF ANY CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF ANY OF THE PARTIES
AND SAID HE HAD GIVEN A "FULL BRIEFING" ON THE SUBJECT
TO UNDER SECRETARY HABIB WHEN THEY WERE BOTH IN
NEW YORK.

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2. AVEROFF SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN PRESENT FOR THE MAKARIOS-CARAMANLIS TALKS AND HE AGREED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW MAKARIOS WAS PREPARED TO MAKE A REASONABLE SETTLEMENT WITH THE TURKS BUT THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE TURKISH SIDE WAS TOTALLY UNWILLING OR INCAPABLE OF MAKING ANY SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS OR ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PRESENT SITUATION. AVEROFF SAID THAT MAKARIOS SAW NO ADVANTAGE WHATEVER IN "LEGITIMATIZING" THE PRESENT SITUATION ON THE ISLAND AND "THE FORTY PERCENT" THAT THE TURKS NOW HAVE. ALTHOUGH HE RECOGNIZES THE RISKS OF A RENEWED ERUPTION OF VIOLENCE ON THE ISLAND, IF A MORE STABLE AND LASTING ARRANGEMENT CANNOT BE AGREED AT SOME POINT, MAKARIOS FEELS THIS IS PREFERABLE TO ACCEPTING AND GIVING HIS BLESSING TO THE PRESENT SITUATION. AVEROFF INDICATED THAT CARAMANLIS AND THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF OPPOSING MAKARIOS' CONTINUING WITH THIS POSTURE.

3. I ASKED THEM HOW THEY FELT ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES ON HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS AT THE LEDRA PALACE CHANNEL, EXTENDING THE TALKS TO DEAL WITH OTHER PRACTICAL PROBLEMS DEMANDING RESOLUTION AS THIS BECAME FEASIBLE. BITSIOS SAID THAT GREECE VERY MUCH FAVORED CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNITIES AND THEREFORE STRONGLY SUPPORTED SUCH DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT MUCH WOULD COME OF THEM. I TOLD BITSIOS THAT WE ALSO SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF WORKING-LEVEL TALKS IN NICOSIA AND THAT WE ALSO SAW THIS AS A MEANS OF FACILITATING FORWARD MOVEMENT, ALTHOUGH NOT AS AN OUT-AND-OUT SUBSTITUTE FOR RESUMPTION OF INTER-COMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AT SOME EARLY DATE. BITSIOS SAID THAT GREECE ALSO WANTED TO SEE A RESUMPTION OF INTER-COMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS AT SOME POINT BUT FELT THAT NOW WAS NOT THE TIME. IF A 6TH VIENNA ROUND WERE HELD NOW HE WAS AFRAID IT WOULD LEAD TO A TOTAL COLLAPSE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THAT FORUM. THEREFORE, GREECE PREFERRED TO SEE THAT APPROACH SHELVED FOR THE PRESENT WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF RE-USING THE VIENNA FRAMEWORK UNDER

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WALDHEIM'S AUSPICES WHEN THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE PROMISING THAN NOW.
KUBISCH

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